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In like manner he treats the Roman family in the early historic period, comparing it with the kinship groups of the early Germanic peoples; and of the *gens*, with appendices on the Teutonic gilds and the Anglo-Saxon units of local government. Thus he proceeds through the early Roman assemblies to the pontiffs, and finally to the king and to kingship in general, with a section on the Servian system. The book ends with a discussion of the *Leges Regiae*, shorter than one might have expected from the extent of the constitutional part. The general authenticity of these laws as fragments of the customary law probably of the regal period the author is inclined to accept, on account of the nature of their subject matter and their archaic language. In Part I he had already discussed Pomponius's story of their publication by Papirius, whom he prefers with Pais to place in the third century B. C. instead of the first, as Mommsen and Girard conclude.

Taken as a whole, Professor Clark's "History of Roman Law" must be judged as a partial fulfilment of a plan first made nearly half a century ago. The appearance in this long interval of such books as Karlowa's *Römische Rechtsgeschichte*; Cuq's *Institutions Juridiques*, of which three editions have appeared; Krüger's and Kipp's *Geschichte der Quellen*; and others, has made this fulfilment much less important than would have been the case when the work was first undertaken; and Professor Clark's volumes have rendered none of those others obsolete. Nevertheless, though Dr. Clark's History is never likely to displace Krüger's abler discussion of the sources or Cuq's clearer exposition of the principles of Rome's early law, it does furnish stimulating and independent views on many a point in the history of Roman public and private law to which the student may profitably turn.

C. H. McILWAIN.

A LAWYER'S LIFE ON TWO CONTINENTS. By WALLIS NASH. Boston: Richard G. Badger. Copyrighted 1919. pp. 212. Illustrated.

The vast difference between practicing law in the world's metropolis and dabbling in it in a pioneer rural community such as Oregon was a generation ago is a topic full of suggestion both as to the adaptability of the common law system to widely divergent conditions, and possibly as to the limits of that adaptability. Wallis Nash plunged from the one into the other, when at the age of forty in 1879, he left England where he had been a successful solicitor, to make his home in Corvallis, Oregon. The venture that brought him here, the Oregon Pacific Railroad, failed, making some men rich and others, including Nash's little colony, poor, and driving him back to his old profession of law in the new surroundings.

He hardly seems conscious of the light that his experience might shed on one of the great juristic problems of the day — the adaptation of rural pioneer law to urban conditions. His simple narration is concerned rather with his pleasant recollections of vacations and of interesting meetings, both professional and social, with such men as Sir Henry Bessemer, Alexander Graham Bell, Charles H. Spurgeon, Canon Liddon, Herbert Spencer, Charles Darwin, and Mrs. Craik. Occasionally he introduces the lawyers of his day and his pen-sketches of a few of them are remarkably clear. Take, for example, his description of three well-known figures (p. 55): "Sir George Jessel was big, burly, rough-voiced, and with one movable eye that used to revolve in an alarming fashion. He was the most quick-witted of the three, and a most effective advocate. Sir Hugh Cairns was tall, graceful, light-haired, and one of the handsomest of men. His face was that of an ancient Greek. His voice was carefully modulated, but quite cold in tone. Sir Roundell Palmer was held to be the best-equipped lawyer of the day. His delivery in Court was most deliberate and every word counted."

The contrast between the community which he left and that which he entered

may best be illustrated by considering first the Dickens atmosphere of his early days, which he reproduces so successfully that it is sometimes hard to tell where Dickens leaves off and he begins. With this may be contrasted the situation in the *New World*, where old Mark Savage, the blacksmith in the Oregon wilderness, was heard to grumble, "The darn place is getting too thick for me anyhow — there's folks within half a mile of me whichever way I turn!" (p. 164).

It is a pity that Mr. Nash does not record more of his own impressions of the changed legal conditions — but perhaps it is unnecessary. The story speaks for itself. "I opened," he tells us, "a law office in Corvallis and had immediate introduction into the life of the country lawyer. Much was new, and I was often more at a loss than I showed, although I had been making careful study of the Oregon Code and reports and precedents." Imagine the dignified English solicitor who had encountered the greatest difficulty in winning conservative English capitalists over to that novelty, the telephone, transplanted to a place where he not only has to step out of his office and appear in court, but where as lobbyist on behalf of his clients he has to face a crowd of drenched Oregon farmer-legislators, to keep them in good spirits by speech-making while he breaks the news to them that the new railroad which they are inspecting cannot take them back safely to the capital because of the danger of washouts!

The habit of writing such legal autobiographies has not made so much progress on this side of the Atlantic as it has abroad, and for helping to import the charming tone of the English books of this type, Mr. Nash deserves warm appreciation.

NATHAN ISAACS.

THE YOUNG MAN AND THE LAW. By Simeon E. Baldwin. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1920. pp. 160.

Surely no one is better qualified than Judge Baldwin to tell from personal experience the possibilities which lie before a young man who enters the legal profession. In his well-rounded life of more than four-score years, he has been a successful practitioner at the bar, a member of the Commission which made his native State of Connecticut a leader in the reform of procedural law, Associate and later Chief Justice of the highest court of that State, Governor, author, President of the American Bar Association, and for fifty years a professor of law in a great University. Very naturally his account of the legal profession is given in an optimistic tone. His chapter on the Attractions of the Legal Profession is twice as long as that upon the Objections to Choosing the Legal Profession. The book is more optimistic than the briefer and more statistical book on "The Law as a Vocation," by Frederick J. Allen, recently published. (See 33 *HARV. L. REV.* 739.) Although he deals at length with the larger ideals of the profession, Judge Baldwin does not neglect such practical details as the amount of money a lawyer may make, or the danger a lawyer runs of becoming irritable and cross-grained, a nuisance to his wife and children. The book is full of quotations of the words of eminent lawyers from Cicero to Chauncey M. Depew. It is interesting and instructive. A young man pausing on the brink of choosing his life-work should read what the legal profession means to one of its foremost votaries.

A. W. S.

INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LAW OF JAPAN. By J. E. de Becker. Linden: Butterworth and Company. 1919. pp. iii, 149.

This little book purports to give only a general outline of the Japanese Private International Law. Almost one half of its contents is devoted to the